MALF A CENTURY OF PROFESSIONAL LIFE.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SAMUEL GROSS, M. D., Etc. with Sketches of his Contemporaries. Edited by H1s Soxs. 2 vals. Svo. pp. xxxii, 407; viii, 438. Philadelphia: George Barrie.

The late Dr. Gross occupied a somewast peculiar position in the profession of which he was so long an ornament. Accident, personal attractiveness, and abilities of a rare type trained by incessant study, all combined to make him one of the most leuous of American practitioners. It was his fortune to begin his career at a time when the science of medicine in this country was as yet hardly developed, and it was his merit that he became a pioneer in the alvance from empiricism and routine to the systematic study of principles. it was overspread with a mantle of darkness. It s true great progress had been made in every direction; but theories, conjectures and uncertain-ties were the characteristics of the day. Hardly anytoing was definitely settled. Physiology and pathology were conjectural branches of the healing art. Chemistry was in a radimentary, transitional state. If ygeine and state medicine had no exlatence. Toxicology and medical jurisprudence ere occult arts. Surgery and medicine were the merest arts, without any scientific associations or connections. Midwifery and gynecology were in a crude condition. Disease was by many regarded, not as an aberration of function, or perversion of health, but as a sort of undefinable entity engrafted upon the system, from which it was necessary to expel it, often with violent remedies more injarious to the patient than the malaly itself. Therapeutics, indeed, has been more labored than advanced. Very little was certainly known respecting the action of medicines upon the system. The text-books were of an inferior order and medical literature had made little progress." Some of the schools were wretched. A professor in the medical department of Transylvania University used to talk of "post-morrem examinations after death," and another member of the same learned faculty ent open a woman for ovarian tumor, and closed the woun I with an oath when he found that the supposed tumor was a baby. Physicians' fees were very low. At Easton, where Dr. Gross practised in his youth, a visit in town was 50 cents, and on:-of-town from \$1 to\$2, according to distance. The doctor furnished and put up the medicines. The charge for consultations was \$5 for the first and \$1 for each subsequent visit. Bleeding in the spring and antumn "to parify the blood" was a common practice, and the patient did not think that he got the worth of his money unless he lost from sixteen to twenty-four ounces. At Cincinvate, where Dr. Gross established himself after leaving Easton, the charges were also miserably low, the fee for an ordinary visit being \$1 and that for a consultation \$5. At Louisville, where he spent sixteen years, the services of a physician were better appreciated. Even before quitting Cincinnati, however, Dr. Gross had begun to earn a large professional income, and during the rest of his life he was prosperous. For twenty-eight father of the General: years he was one of the best known and most Gib-on was a non-beli respected personages in Philadelphia; and there

He did much to advance the standards of profession in several distinct departments which few physicians have ever satisfactorily combined. He was a most successful medical practitioner, a bold, safe, original, ingenious and brilliant surgeon, a distinguished teacher and a voluminous and instructive writer. Some of his contributions to medical and surgical literature, based upon peral research and experiment in totally new fields, have received the highest encominms both at home and abroad, and are recognized as authorities not likely to be soon supplanted. Perhaps we ought not to expect a man to tell us his especial rits, but in Dr. Gross's ingenuous account of his methods as an instructor and an author we seem to read his secret. That was thoroughness. He would not rest until he had gone to the bottom of every study that he took up, and he would not accept reles dintil he had mastered the principles apon which they rested. When he wrote his " Elements of Pathological Anatomy" (a work which Virchow made the occasion of a remarkable public compliment to him at Berlin in 1868), he prefixed to the description of the morbid anatomy of every organ in the body "an account of its healthy color, weight, size and consistence, founded upon original observation, a plan antil then unknown in such works," and involving enormous labor and care. In the latter part of his higher type. In his general appearance there is nothing at all striking. As a lecturer he did not especially impress me. His voice is good, and, while his delivery is graceful, he seemed to me to be rather sluggish; at all events, without that enthastam which one might expect in so renowned to accept the property of the seemed to me to be takener. It age, at my visit at Berlin in 1868, the seemed to me to be takener. It age, at my visit at Berlin in 1868, the seemed to me to be takener. brought upon him the reputation of uitra-conservatism; but this is a reproach which the younger men are too a; to cast at the veterans. Professor Austin Flint, in his brief prefatory memoir, printed with the "Antobiography," maintains that in spite of the tenacity with which he clang to some old opinions, Dr. Gross was always at heart "desirous for progress in medical knowledge and improvements in its practical application." That, when you come to weigh the sentence, seems not much to say. Better testimony to Dr. Gross's openness of mind is found in many of the comments of the autobography. The empty of the comments of the autobography. The empty of pathology and pathological anatomy.

Dr. Gross's remuniscences are not always of pathology and pathological anatomy.

Dr. Gross's remuniscences are not altogether of of the comments of the autob ography. The en-thusiastic terms in which the writer speaks of the innovations introduced by Dr. Jacob Bigelow certainly do not indicate a profound respect for the herete old school. Bigelow was educated at the vania, where two extreme practitioners of that bleed his patients to the point of exhaustion, and Rush, who often sail to his students: "We can have no reliance on Nature (and the students: "We can be considered in the students of the st have no reliance on Nature, gentlemen. We must turn her out of doors in our practice and substitute for her efficient art." Dr. Bigelow reversed all these instructions. "The leading idea of his doctrine was that many if not most diseases, pecially the eruptive, are self-limited; that their natural teadency is to spontaneous cure; and that, while the system is struggling under their effects, very little and is required from the physician, save what relates to food, drink and bygienic regulations. While not discarding medicines or drugs altogether, he confined himself to the mildest and most simple remedies, such as are calculated to aid, and not to thwart, Nature in her efforts at restoration." The tract in which Dr. Bigelow embodied these views Dr. Gross calls one of the most valuable contributions ever made to medical science." Dr. Gross repels with indignation a charge that he

was fond of using the knife. He had a great contempt for the mere mecuanical operator, and he insisted that only a man of fine feelings could be a good surgeon. "I have often lain awake for hours the night before an important operation, and MELVILLE EGLESTON, Esq. Law of Carriers, Telegraph suffered great mental distress for days after it was over until I was certain that my patient was out of over until I was certain that my patient was out of danger. I do not think that it is possible for a criminal to feel much worse the night before his execution than a surgeon when he knows that upon his skill and attention must depend the fate of a valuable citizen, hasband, father, mother or child. Surgery under such circumstances is a terrible taskmaster, feeding like a valture upon a man's vitals." He thus describes his own characteristics as an operator:

I have performed many operations, and flatter myself that I po-sees at least some of the qualities of a good operator—a steady hand, an indinching eve, perfect self-control, and a thorough knowledge of relative anatomy. I have rarely failed to accomplish what I had set out to io. The sight of blood, as I have said, was very disagreeable to me in early life; but it never ampalled me in any of my great operations, and I do not be leve that I ever treubled three times in my life when I had a knife in my hand. My hand and eye, so thoroughly trained in pitching quoits and pennies and practising with the bow and arrow in early boylood, never failed me. I believe that I was always a safe operator, and if I ever committed any great mistake I am not aware of it. My knife was always guided by a thorough knowledge of the case, and, I have reason to believe, by sound judgment, strengthened and sobered by the light of experience and the dictates of common sense. I can say what few men, extensively engaged in practice, can say: "I have never locate patient upon the table from shock or loss of blood."

The public professional compliments bestowed upon Dr. Gross in the form of receptions, testimonials, etc., indicate not only his standing as a physician, but also his personal popularity. Many f them certainly never would have been offered to one who did not enjoy the cordial regard of his brethren. He was a handsome man of imposing and agreeable presence, with social instincts and

talene for friendship of which his autobi outsine many pleasant traces. His tributes to some of his distinguished contemporaries, Keerney Rodgers, J. W. Francis, Van Buren, Marion State, the Plints, J. W. Draper and others, are generod and fervid. But it must se confessed that amidst the evidences of geniality and high-mindedness with which these posthumous pages abound, there are many criticisms and anecdotes whose effect is a little repellant. They are only such things a one may bear at almose any dinner-table, but if we made as free in print with the faults and foibles of our frien le as we do in private converention there would soon be a clamor for censorship of the press. There is an appreciative sketch of Valentine Mott, with a perfectly frank recognition of his great achievements, but it is compled with this para

graph:

As a public teacher Mott long occupied a prominent position. His lectures were e-sentially devoted to operative surgery, and exhibited the results of his rich personal experience, but they were always far in arrear of the existing state of the science. Another feature of them was their egotismeal character. He could not help talking about the ligation of the innominate artery, the excision of the clavicle—styled by him bis "Waterloo operation"—and other feats, the record of which, however amusing it might have been for a time to young students, could not fail sconer or later to become tiresome, if not offensive. This was Mott's weakness. If he possessed a certain degree of strength as a teacher of operative surgery, he was all fault as a teacher of surgical pathology—a lault shared until recently by most of the professors of this branch of science in our medical schools.

The attainments of Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes as

The attainments of Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes as a physician are referred to with a touch of scorn. and Dr. Gross thinks it a pity that he ever exchanged law for physic; "he would no doubt have gained great custinction at the bar." Most of us are content with him as he is. But we shall not dwell upon the blemishes of a book in which so much is attractive. There are some amusing stories of dead and gone practitioners whose eccentricities can be told without offence. There was a Dr. Lanein St. Louis many years ago, a man of great personal popularity and of undeniable success in wrestling with disease, although he had no scientific acquirements and never read a medical

One of Lane's peculiarities was a habit of runmaging the rooms of his patients in search of something to eat or drink. Indeed, it seemed to be an
idio ynerasy with him, appearing at all times, in
season and out of season, and the act was often
performed apparently without conaciousness of
what he was doing. It was upon one of these
occasions that a patient who had often witnessed
those freaks determined to play a trick upon him.
The visit took place early in the forenoon. "Mrs.
H., have you taken your medicine?"—a big dose
of caloniel and jalap presented the evening before. "No, doctor; but I intend to take it presently." At this moment the doctor espeed a glass upon
the mantel partially filled with jelly and containing the cathaitic medicine. The mixture disappeared in an instant. For two days no doctor was
reen, and much discussion was included in on account of his protracted absence. When at length
he reappeared he looked pale and haggard, and
apolog zed by saying that he had been seizes, soon
after he left the lady's room, with a severe attack
of che era morbus. of cho era morbus.

There was a bitter fend between Dr. William Gibson, of Philadelphia, and Dr. McClellan, the

father of the General:

Gibson, or Panadelphia, and Dr. McCleinas, the father of the General:

Gibson was a non-believer in the feasibility of extirpating the parotid giand, and hefore his own class he openly accused McCleilan, of tall-shoot for having asserted that he had repeatedly performed the operation. For a long time there was a warm controversy on this subject between the rival schools, in which Pattson at length fook an active part in favor of McCleilan. Some tev years afterward Gibson and McCleilan became partially recopelled; and after the latter had withdrawn from the Jederson Me ical Coilege he was invited to witness an extirpation of the parotid in the University of Pennsylvania in the pressure of the class and of many adjustence who had come to see the "fun." The tumor was skilfully removed; and when the operation was over Gibson, turning toward the audience, remarked: "Gentlemen, I have performed what is generally called extirpation of the parotid gland; but it is not an extirpation of the parotid gland. The mass I have removed in only a tumor overlying that gland, not the gland treeff." "Gentlemen, "and McCleilan, "my distinguished friend has extirpated the parotid gland; but, unfortunately, he does not know it"—a remark which caused convusions of laughter in the but, unfortunately, he does not know it -a re-mark which caused convulsions of laughter in the

A visit to Professor Virchow in Berlin is the subject of several interesting pages, from which we

Dr. Gross's reminiscences are not altogether of melical men. for he saw a great dea! of general society and met many distinguished persons. He continued the record of his life almost to its very close, and as he advance ! in years the finer traits medical department of the University of Pennsyl- of his character seemed to grow more and more dominant. His autobiography will enjoy a special

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President of Princeton University.

I have examined with care the course of studies pursued as Swithin C. Shortlidge's achool at Media and find it to be admirable. Mr Shortlidge has sent to this college a number of fine boys well prepared. JAMES MCCOSH. President.

From PRESIDENT ELIOT.

Of Harvard University.

SWITHIN C SHORTLIDDE, Media Penn.:

My Dear Sir: You have supplied us with the best possible evidence of the excellence of your achool, up presenting young men so well fitted, and I hope you will have the professional success which you certainly deserve. Very truly your.

Office of JACOS S. LIVINGOOD.

Office of JACOB S. LIVINGOOD,
Attorney-at-law,
Reading, Penn.

Attorney-a-law,

MR. SWITHIN C SHORTLIDGE.

Dear Sir It gives me great pleasure to tell you of my son's success at the Princeion examinations. I wish, at this time, to thank you for the carriell instruction given the three of my sons who have attended your s-hool. That the work was carrelly and conscientionsly done is clearly proved by their successful preparation for Princeton and Harvard in a much shorter time than I had espected, I we halso to congratulate you on a system of instruction which does not merely prepare boys for college, but which also awakens in them a proper interest in study. Very truly yours, JACOB S. LIVINGOOD,

From Professor CHARLES A. SCHAEFFER,

Dean of Cornell University.

MR. SWITHIN C. SHORFILID'S.

Dear Sir. I rake great pleasure in stating that the gentlemen mentionest in your letter entered without condition, I man, very sincerely yours.

men mentioned in your characteristics. A schaeffer, Dean. CHARLES A. SCHAEffer, Dean. CHARLES A. SCHAEffer, Dean. CHARLES A. SCHAEffer, Dean.

From Rev. S. A. HFILNER.

I am personally acquanted with Swithin C. Shortlidge, A. M. I consider him an admirable instructor and disciplinarian. In his government of hos he combines kindness with firmness. He is manifestly fitted by nature and culture for his responsible position. He has success because he deserves it. The academy is well managed. It is conducted upon modern principles and in approved methods. The leachers are able and efficient. Morally they stand bight in the community and command the respect of all. The special design of the academy is to prepare for business and college. This two-fold object is accomplished in an eminent degree. I unhesitatingly commend the school to all youth who desire to prepare for college or quality themseves for LANER.

S. A. EFILMER.

Pastor M. E. Church.

Pastor M. E. Church.

Pastor M. E. Church.

Metia, Penn.

Pastor M. E. Church, Metia, Penn.

From JAMES H. MASON RNOX, D.D., LL.D.,
President of Lafayette College.

I have read with care the courses of study in the Media Academy under the supervision of Mr. Swithin C. Shorthiga, and have found them admirably adapted to prepare students for Lafayette College in the classical, scientific, and technical departments. Mr. Shorthiga is a most success ut teacher. The students whom he has prepared for Lafayette have given abundant evid noc of his faithfulness and skill as an instructor. I take very great pleasure in commending him and the Media Academy to all who seek a scio d in which they may be sure of their sons receiving the very less attention. The school is worthy of the highest commendation.

JAMEN H. MASON KNOX.
Pre-ident of alayette College.

From REV. DEWITT C. BYLLE-BY.
Chist Church Rectory Media, Penn., June 25, 1887.
Rev. and Dear Sir. Fermit me to introduce to you Swithin C. Shorthidge, principal of the well-known Academy for Boys and Young Men in our town. Mr. Shorthidge is a communicant and active member of our Vestgra and admirably fixed for the position he occur less as the head of a large who he was make. Yours truly.

Recter of Christ Church, Media, Penn.

Provot of Bay University of Pennsylvania.

THE REV. EDW. R. RICH.

Prom DR. WILLIAM PEPPER,
Provost of the University of Pennsylvania.

SWITHIN C. SHORTI, in St. ENG. A. M.:
Dear Sir. I have had frequent occasion to observe the
gnoi results of the thorough work done by the students under
your care, and a careful examination of your courses of sultyour care, and a careful examination of your courses of sultyour care, and a careful examination of your courses of sultyour care, and a careful examination of your courses of sultyour care, and a careful examination of your courses of an exyour care, and a careful examination of your courses of an exyour care, and a careful examination of your courses of an examination of your care.

Yet a sulface of the property of the propert

From REV. W. R. PATTON.
Media, Penn., July 20, 1887.

For several years I have been in the labit of visiting Mr. Swithin C. Shortled e's Media Academy, and I have made myself acquainted with his methods of leaching. A number of his students attend the church of which I am pastor, and some have been members of my Bible-class. From all my acquaintence with the Academy, I am very glad to speak words of commendation, not only for the advancement of the pupils in their studies, but for the high moral and religious standard for which Mr. shortlides is constantly and successfully striving in his school work. He is doing all in his power to incultate a nure merality in the minds and hearts of the commencement of the commencement of the configuration of his school and we shall ever seek to advance its interests.

W. R. PATTON, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Media, Remarks made at the School Commencement by JUDGE BROOMALE.

"I have listened to the exercises to night with a great deal of pleasure. I was especially pleased with the drill in Commercial Arithmetic and the isaw of Nacotia's Paper, for these are subject with which I am somewhat familiar. These boys displayed a knowledge of Commercial Arithmetic and the law of Commercial Arithmetic fast with which I am somewhat familiar. These boys displayed a knowledge of Commercial Arithmetic fast would not be found is any mercintle house in this town, and such a knowledge of the law of Commercial arithmetic interest was superising and tipgether the showing made by them was surprising and litigether the showing made by them was a stoeddingly remarkatione. I congratulate you on the success of your Commercial Department."

was an exceedingly remarkable one. I congratulate you on the success of your Commercial Department."

From P. C. DADE.

SWITHIN C. SHORFLIDGE, ESQ:

I consider yours the best whoo! Frank ever attended. I have been more than bless who Frank ever attended. I have been more than bless with the capit procress he made in his still less while with you—more than 14m years—an I can bear testimony to the excellence of your system of teaching. Hoping that you mare have a tull school next year, as I have no doubt you will, I am, were trait yours.

From REV. DAVID TULLY.

Pastor of Media Presisterian Church.

Media, Petn., July 25, 1887.

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